

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2018 | 10:00 AM
VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

Approved Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Collen Deegan, David Christian, Woody Lawman, Regina Carter, Gene Grecheck, Bob Bailey, and Will Payne.

The following VNECA Board Members were absent: Gary Tepper, Pam Norris, Ken Ball, Bill Briscoe, Tim Stuller, Andrew Hutton, John Capps, Jack Lesko, and Rich Diddams.

The following VNECA staff was present: Eric Bateman

The following non-members were present: Mike Skiffington (DMME), William Magwood, IV (Nuclear Energy Agency), Janet Magwood (Institute for Defense Analyses), April Wade (VNEC), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter) and David Martin (Martin Images News).

INTRODUCTIONS:

After Chairman Tom DePonty's welcoming remarks, Authority board members provided introductions.

2018 RECAP OF THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION:

Michael Skiffington of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) gave an update on the 2018 General Assembly Legislative Session. Mr. Skiffington gave an overview on a bill that permits DMME along with the Virginia Solar Development Authority to study the impacts and research the policies needed to expand battery storage technology in the state. In addition, he provided a comprehensive overview of Senate Bill 966 and its impacts on rates, regulations, grid transformation and modernization, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

NUCLEAR ENERGY - NAVIGATING A COMPLEX FUTURE:

William Magwood, IV, Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency, provide the Authority with insight on the role of the Nuclear Energy Agency in fostering international co-operation and regulations for developing nuclear energy, developing nuclear technology policy, and conduct multinational research into challenging scientific and technological issues. He provided an overview of the eight current technical committees and their responsibilities as well as

introduced the new committee on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations and Legacy Management.

In addition, Mr. Magwood provided some key challenges of nuclear at the global level. Specifically, the impact of renewables and natural gas on electricity markets, the costs of nuclear regulation and operation, nuclear waste disposal, the need for innovation, and public perception problems. However, Mr. Magwood highlighted that nuclear is well-understood technology that can be built at large scale, and that nuclear provides highly reliable, dispatchable, zero-emission energy.

VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM (VNEC) UPDATE:

April Wade provided an update on VNEC staff changes. Ms. Wade stated that the previous Executive Director, Marshall Cohen, had retired and that she was now the Executive Director of VNEC. In addition, Sama Bilbao y Leon, the Chair of VNEC, departed for a new position in Paris, France. Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Virginia Tech, was selected as her replacement. Finally, Ms. Wade highlighted the Consortium's recent work on a new energy workforce cluster.

NEW BUSINESS:

Will Payne provide the Authority with an update on the progress of the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan. Mr. Payne outlined the stakeholder process and the goals for the stakeholder meetings. He encouraged VNECA and VNEC to submit comments and recommendations to the Governor's office as well as work with other authorities to create a robust 2018 Energy Plan. Chairman DePonty recommended that members meet again in August in order to vote on final recommendations to the 2018 Energy Plan.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Regina Carter shared an update that the Integral System Test Facility (IST) and Liberty University may have an agreement soon.

Chairman DePonty noted that his firm, Framatome, is now headquartered in Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Erica Gray from the Sierra Club expressed concerns about the storage of nuclear waste, specifically the containers. Ms. Gray believes the best step forward is decommissioning nuclear plants safely and not producing anymore waste.

ADJOURNMENT:

As all business was conducted for the day, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m. EST.